

an interface which is connected to a host and receives information from the host;

a memory for storing characteristic information of the printhead;

discriminating means for discriminating whether or not a command sent from the host based on information inputted to the host from any of a plurality of input means is a command including the characteristic information of the printhead;

write control means for controlling to write the characteristic information of the printhead into said memory in accordance with a discrimination result of said discriminating means; and

printing control means for controlling the printhead to print in accordance with the characteristic information written into said memory.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the characteristic information includes type information of the printhead, and

said write control means controls to write the characteristic information of the printhead for each type of printhead.

3. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the printhead is detachable from a printing apparatus main body, and is attached to said printing apparatus after being selected from among plural types of printheads by a user.

4. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said discriminating means includes means for receiving a command outputted from the host to which the characteristic information of the printhead indicated on the printhead of an accessory of the printhead in a format identifiable by a human or an electronic device is inputted by a man-machine interactive operation or the electronic device.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the printhead is an inkjet printhead for printing by discharging ink.

6. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the inkjet printhead comprises an electrothermal transducer for generating heat energy to be applied to ink so as to discharge the ink by utilizing the heat energy.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said memory includes an EEPROM.

8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the command sent from the host is a command outputted from the host which is externally instructed or receives an instruction.

9. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the format identifiable by a human is at least one of a digit and a character string.

10. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the format identifiable by an electronic device is a barcode.

11. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the indication in a format identifiable by a human or an electronic device is a described, adhered or formed indication.

12. (Amended) A printing system including a printing apparatus according to claim 1, and a host connecting to the printing apparatus and capable of communicating with a second system via a network, said host comprising:

input means for inputting individual information of a printhead indicated on the printhead or an accessory of the printhead in a format identifiable by a human or an electronic device via man-machine interactive operation or the electronic device;

retrieve means for accessing the second system via the network on the basis of the individual information of the printhead inputted by said input means, and retrieving characteristic information of the printhead corresponding to the individual information of the printhead; and

transfer means for transferring the characteristic information of the printhead retrieved by said retrieve means to the printing apparatus.

13. The printing system according to claim 12, wherein the network includes a LAN or Internet.

14. (Amended) The printing system according to claim 12, wherein the individual information of the printhead is a production number of the printhead.

15. The printing system according to claim 12, wherein said second system has a database in which information is retrievable via the network, and the database holds characteristic information of the printhead corresponding to the individual information of the printhead.

16. (Amended) The printing system according to claim 12, wherein the format identifiable by a human is at least one of a digit and a character string.

17. The printing system according to claim 16, wherein said input means inputs said at least one of the digit and character string by the man-machine interactive operation.

18. (Amended) The printing system according to claim 12, wherein the format identifiable by the electronic device is a barcode.

19. The printing system according to claim 18, wherein the electronic device is a barcode reader.

20. (Amended) The printing system according to claim 12, wherein the indication in a format identifiable by a human or an electronic device is a described, adhered or formed indication.

21. (Amended) A printhead on whose external surface information is appended, wherein the information is inputted to a host computer, which transmits print information to a printing apparatus with which said printhead is used for printing, so as to output characteristics information of said printhead based on the information to the printing apparatus.

22. (Amended) An accompanying material to which information is appended, wherein the material accompanies a printhead, the information is inputted to a host computer, which transmits print information to a printing apparatus with which said printhead is used for printing, so as to output characteristics information of said printhead based on the information to the printing apparatus.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.